

MEETING SUMMARY (REVISED)
PRIMARY ZONE STUDY COMMITTEE
Meeting of May 7, 2010, Walnut Grove Library

The meeting convened at 1:00 p.m.

Committee Members present: Albright, Pegos, Piepho, Ruhstaller and Vick

Committee Members unable to attend: Cabaldon and Ferguson

It was noted that the April 22 Meeting Summary noting the absence of Commissioner Eggman has been changed to correctly note the absence of Commissioner Cabaldon (not Commissioner Eggman who is not a member of the Committee).

Executive Director Fiack served as chair of the meeting.

Douglas Environmental was introduced as the consultant selected pursuant to the Request for Proposals process. It was noted that the contract will continue to be unexecuted until funding for the study is secured.

The draft letter to the Delta Stewardship Council from the Chair of the Commission requesting a transfer of \$104,250 to support the consulting services for completion of the Study was discussed so it could be sent on May 10th to assure receipt by the Council prior to its May 27th meeting. Commissioner Piepho noted that the Members of the Council cc on the letter should be changed to Members of the Delta Stewardship Council. She also asked for various legislators involved in the Delta legislation and Budget Committees be copied on the letter. The Committee directed staff to finalize the letter, with the changes, and send out on May 10th.

Commissioner Albright also noted that the Committee should consider developing subsequent alternate strategies for securing funding, including potentially requesting support from the State entities on the Commission consistent with the initiation of efforts by Secretary Snow as a member of the Commission.

The Committee discussed the potential for requesting an extension of time for completion of the Study through amended legislation. It was recognized that such a request should acknowledge: time constraints imposed due to delays in contracting because of lack of funding; potential risk of completing a less than meaningful study due to time constraints; inadequate time to fully engage input into the process through public outreach. A Work Plan/milestone schedule showing accomplishments to date and providing a comparison of what could be completed under both short-term and extended-term scenarios would also be included to provide background justification for the request. Commissioner Ruhstaller will work with San Joaquin County and Contra Costa County legislative advocates to determine an effective approach which will be included in the Committee's report to the Commission on May 20th.

The Committee received a presentation from the Douglas Environmental Consulting Team. The presentation included: review of the legislative mandate; review of study areas provided in the legislation; constraints study approach and issues; and the public outreach approach and strategy. The Committee provided input that included: recognition that the study should focus primarily on the six identified geographic areas and only consider realignment of the Delta boundary as relates to those six defined areas; further research of the San Joaquin lowlands should be pursued through the review of previous studies and reports; the outreach program should include site specific forums and provide for overview workshops as well as specific outcome forums; the Commission's Management Plan policies and County General Plans, as well as COG plans, should be utilized as guiding reference documents.

Public comment was received from Nicole S. Suard, Esq., Managing Member, Snug Harbor Resorts LLC, who referenced a 1998 report that noted the San Joaquin lowlands http://deltarevision.com/maps/south_delta_prevent_urbanization.jpg, http://www.deltarevision.com/1990-1999_docs/NHI-Packard_delta_study1998.pdf; Bill Geyer of Resource Landowners Coalition who commented that focusing on the six defined geographic areas was a step in the right direction; Nelson Bahler representing Reclamation Districts 2074, 2115 and 2119 who noted those impacted by the potential alterations of the Primary Zone or Delta should be provided an opportunity to provide input, and Steve McAdams, Monte Vista Equities requested the Committee provide information, procedures, documentation and/or applications to have the Committee consider other changes in the Primary Zone requested by landowners or other entities in addition to the six areas listed in the meeting agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on June 14th from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. in Rio Vista (location TBA).